

IN THE CLAIMS

Please find below a listing of all of the pending claims. The status of each claim is set forth in parentheses.

1. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

receiving a message from an originating network element at an interface of a service application, wherein the service application interfaces with both a Signaling System 7 (SS7) network and an Internet Protocol (IP) network, and wherein the message includes a point code associated with the originating network element;

accessing a network selection table comprised within a message transport part layer 3 (MTP3) application programming interface (API) level of a protocol stack to determine how to process the message, wherein the protocol stack comprises both a MTP3 layer and a MTP3 user adaptation layer (M3UA) layer, and wherein the network selection table comprises entries that associate point codes with network types;

processing the message with the MTP3 layer if it is determined that the point code associated with the originating network element corresponds to the SS7 network; and

processing the message with the M3UA layer if it is determined that the point code associated with the originating network element corresponds to the IP network.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the service application comprises a home location register (HLR) or a service control point (SCP).

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the network selection table is populated automatically.
5. (Previously Presented) A device, comprising:
 - a communication interface configured to receive a message from an originating network element, wherein the device interfaces with both a Signaling System 7 (SS7) network and an Internet Protocol (IP) network, and wherein the message includes a point code associated with the originating network element;
 - a processor; and
 - a computer-readable storage medium including computer-readable instruction stored therein that, upon execution by the processor, cause the device to:
 - access a network selection table comprised within a message transport part layer 3 (MTP3) application programming interface (API) level of a protocol stack to determine how to process the message, wherein the protocol stack comprises both a MTP3 layer and a MTP3 user adaptation layer (M3UA) layer, and wherein the network selection table comprises entries that associate point codes with network type;
 - process the message with the MTP3 layer if it is determined that the point code associated with the originating network element corresponds to the SS7 network; and
 - process the message with the M3UA layer if it is determined that the point code associated with the originating network element corresponds to the IP network.
6. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 5, wherein the device comprises a home location register (HLR) or a service control point (SCP).

7. (Canceled)
8. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 5, wherein the network selection table is populated automatically.
9. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 5, wherein the network selection table is populated manually.
10. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 5, wherein the network selection table comprised within the MTP3 API level of the protocol stack is separate from a routing table in the MTP3 layer.
11. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 5, wherein the device is not a signaling gateway.
12. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 5, wherein the originating network element is a service switching point (SSP) or a message switching center (MSC).
13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the network selection table comprised within the MTP3 API level of the protocol stack is separate from a routing table in the MTP3 layer.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the network selection table is populated manually.
15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the service application is not a signaling gateway.
16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the originating network element is a service switching point (SSP) or a message switching center (MSC).